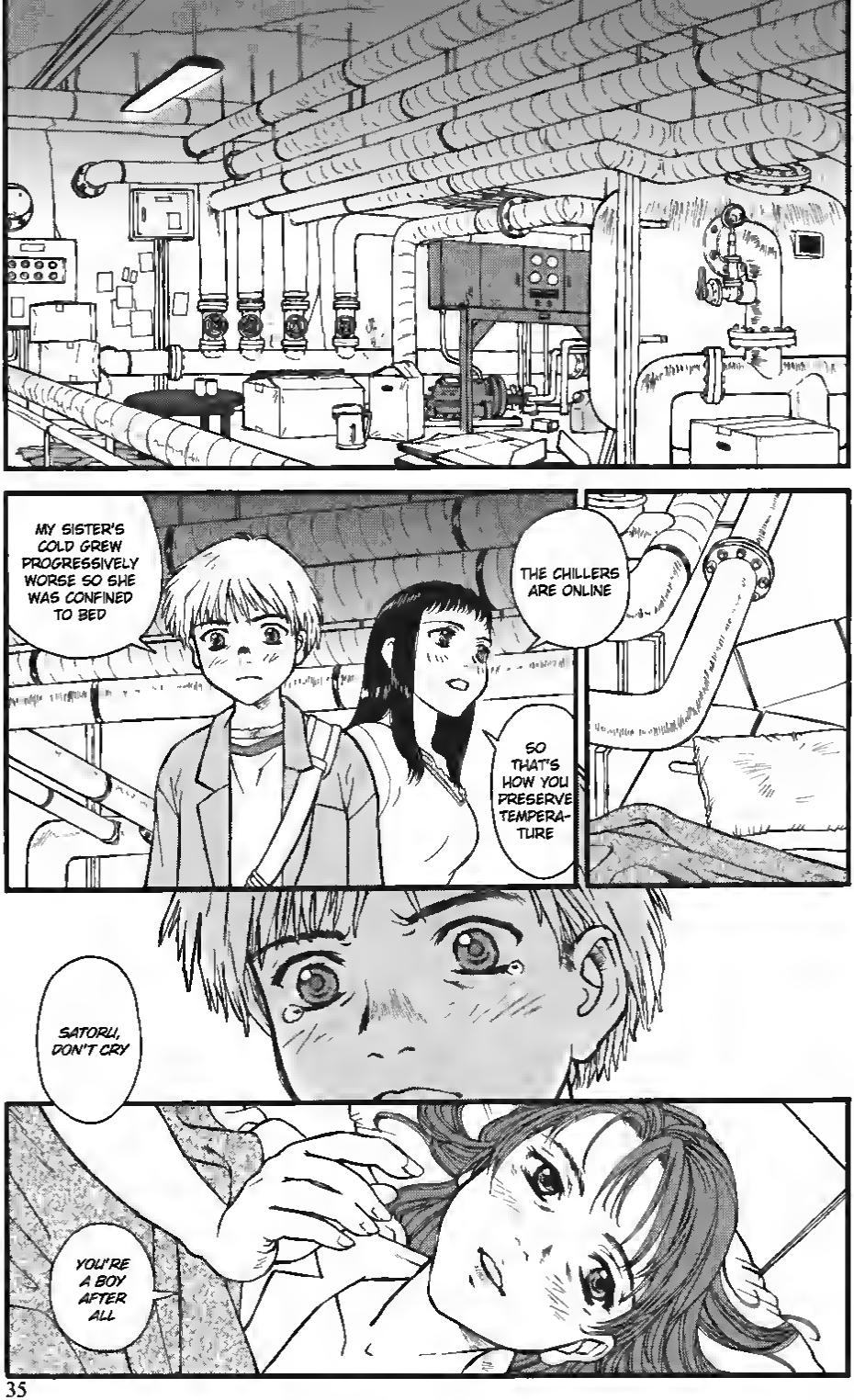
Chapter 1-B

HEY, SATORU
Open
YO
WHO'S THAT WITH YOU?
NIPPORI
SATO-RU!
WHERE'VE YOU BEEN?
YEAH
WE HAVE WATER TOO
IT'S JUST GROUND-WATER THOUGH
YET THERE'S LIGHT
A STATION THAT WAS CLOSED IN 2004, KUU

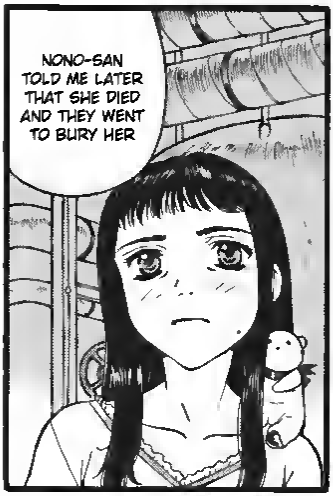
IF THAT AIN'T SATORU!
ALL THE WAY UP TO THE SUBWAY PREMISES
PEOPLE LIVE FROM THE KEISEI-UENO STATION HERE AND THROUGH THE ADJOINING TUNNELS
WELL, I KINDA DID
AND HERE I WAS WONDERING WHO BROUGHT THIS PRETTY LADY HERE
AH, NONO-SAN!
WAIT, AREN'T YOU...
ELECTRICITY THEFT, KUU!
I'M NONO-MURA
HE'S THE ONE WHO SET UP OUR POWER FROM SCRAP WIRES AND TRANSFORMERS
THIS IS NONO-SAN

EH? WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I HEARD YOU'VE BEEN SELLING TONS OF THINGS TO OTHERS, TOO
...THE ONE WHO BROUGHT LOTS OF STUFF TO MY STORE THE OTHER DAY?
SUSPI-CIOUS?
YEAH ..
LENA, ISN'T HE KINDA
THAT'S WEIRD
WELL, LATER
WE'RE ALMOST THERE
I SEE
HELPED MY SISTER IN RAISING ME
NONO-SAN AND ALL OF HIS FRIENDS HERE

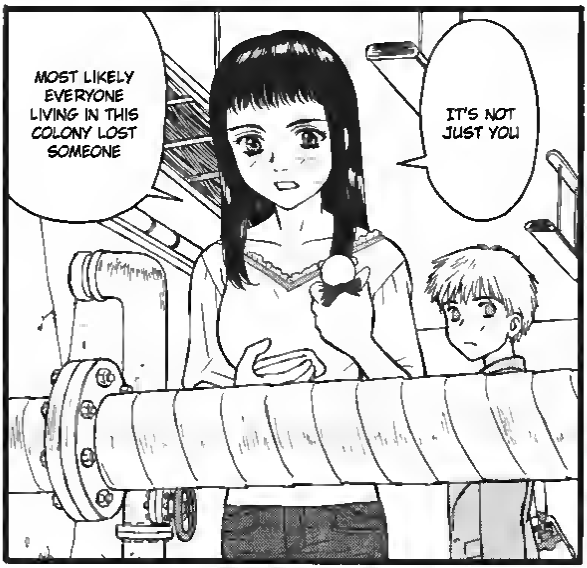

MY SISTER'S COLD GREW PROGRESSIVELY WORSE SO SHE WAS CONFINED TO BED
THE CHILLERS ARE ONLINE
SO THAT'S HOW YOU PRESERVE TEMPERATURE
SATORU, DON'T CRY
YOU'RE A BOY AFTER ALL

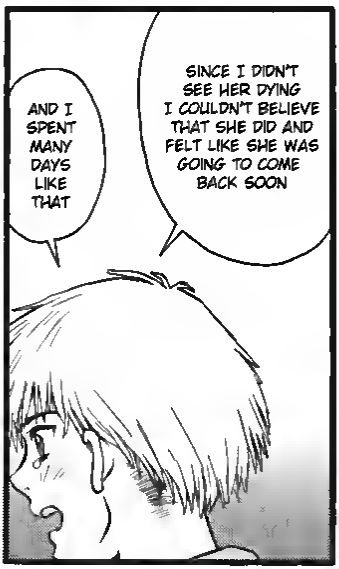
GLASS IS A MAGICAL THING
BUT...
WHEN YOU REMEMBER THAT THERE'S STILL SOMETHING THAT CAN PRODUCE SUCH A RADIANT SHINE, IT MAKES YOU FORGET ALL OF THE BAD THINGS
NO MATTER HOW DIRTY OR CORRUPTED OUR WORLD BECOMES
THIS IS PROBABLY THE REASON FOR BEAUTY TO EXIST
WHEN YOU TOUCH SOMETHING THIS BEAUTIFUL, YOUR HEART FILLS WITH ENERGY

I DIDN'T KNOW WHAT TO DO
SIS!!!
Wheeze
Gasp
Pant


NONO-SAN TOLD ME LATER THAT SHE DIED AND THEY WENT TO BURY HER

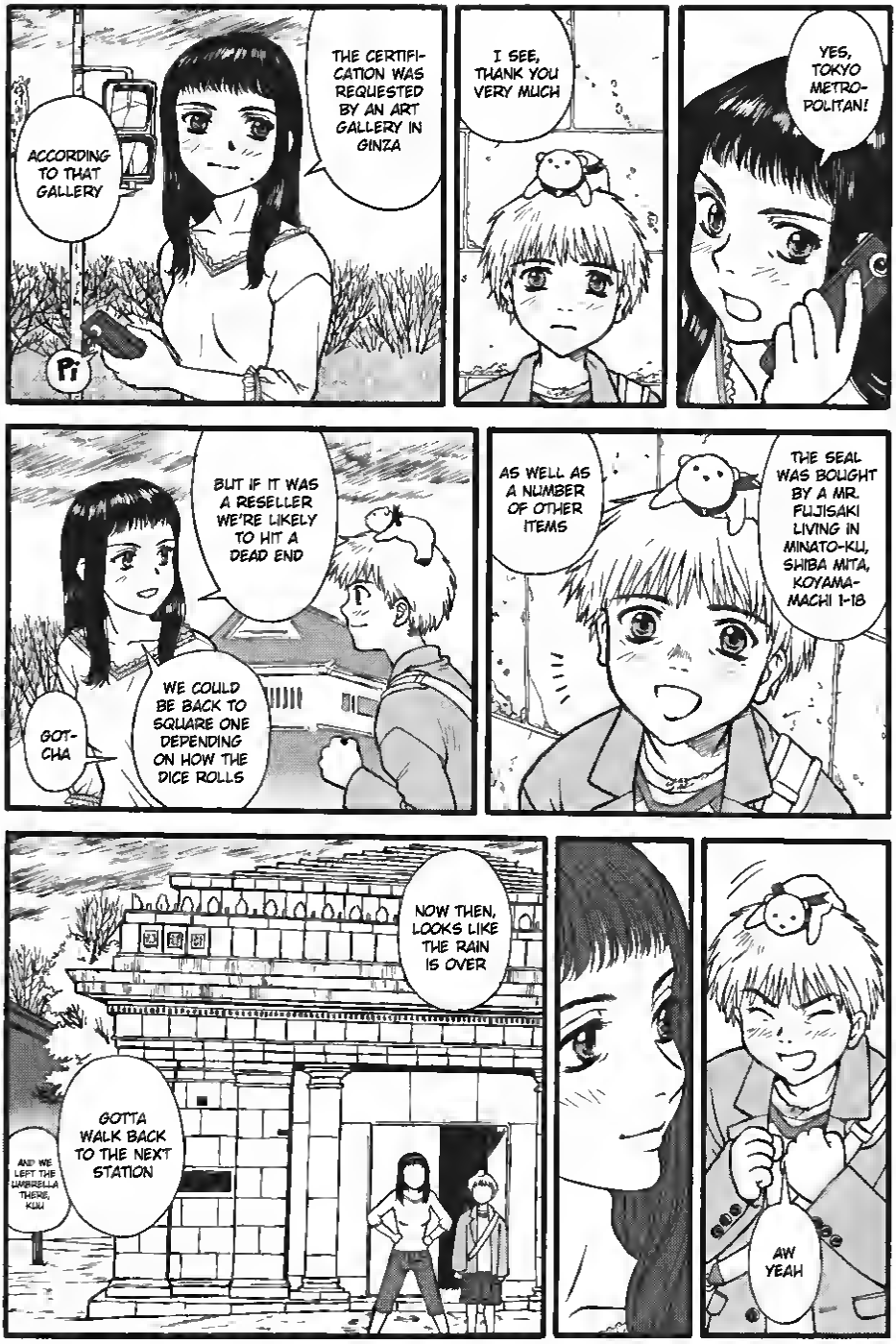
WHEN I GOT BACK MY SISTER WASN'T THERE
I RAN TO THE HOSPITAL TO GET HELP BUT SINCE I WAS AN ORPHAN THEY GAVE ME A COLD SHOULDER


MOST LIKELY EVERYONE LIVING IN THIS COLONY LOST SOMEONE
IT'S NOT JUST YOU


AND I SPENT MANY DAYS LIKE THAT
SINCE I DIDN'T SEE HER DYING I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT SHE DID AND FELT LIKE SHE WAS GOING TO COME BACK SOON

THERE'S STILL THE BOTTOM OF YOUR HEART
BUT WHAT'S LEFT IS NOT NECESSARILY NOTHING BUT NEGATIVE THINGS
BOTH PEOPLE AND THE SOCIETY ITSELF SUFFERED A BLOW TO THE VERY FOUNDATION OF THEIR BEING AFTER THE DISASTER
AND DURING THE EVACU-ATION
SO YOU DON'T GET DIRTY
AND IT'S IMPORTANT IN SHAPING UP WHO YOU ARE
SEEMS LIKE WE CAME HERE TO CLEAN THIS MESS, KUU!
ALMOST AS IF ON PURPOSE
WHEW
NOTHING TO INDICATE YOUR FORMER ADDRESS HERE
IF THAT LALIQUE CERTIFICATE TURNED UP AT LEAST...
AAARGH...
MAN, THIS IS KINDA...

SHE DIDN'T WANT TO LOSE IT, SO...
HERE YOU GO
CERTIFICATE OF AUTHENTICITY
JUST A SEC
AH
HMMM
I SHOULD MAKE A CALL TO CHECK THEIR RECORDS
LOOKS LIKE THIS EXPERT OPINION WAS MADE AFTER CONSULTING WITH MR. SUZUKI IN KYOTO
WESTERN ART DEALERS UNION... IT'S IN ENGLISH, THERE'S AN "R"... ALAN...
WHAT A WASTE OF EFFORT THAT WAS, OOF
?
THE NUMBER OF MY ANTIQUE DEALER'S LICENSE ISSUED BY THE TOKYO SAFETY COMMISSION IS ..
I'M FROM RAKUSHIDOU IN KITA-SENJU
THERE WAS AN ITEM WITH A CERTIFICATE OF YOURS BROUGHT IN SO I'D LIKE TO CONFIRM...
YES

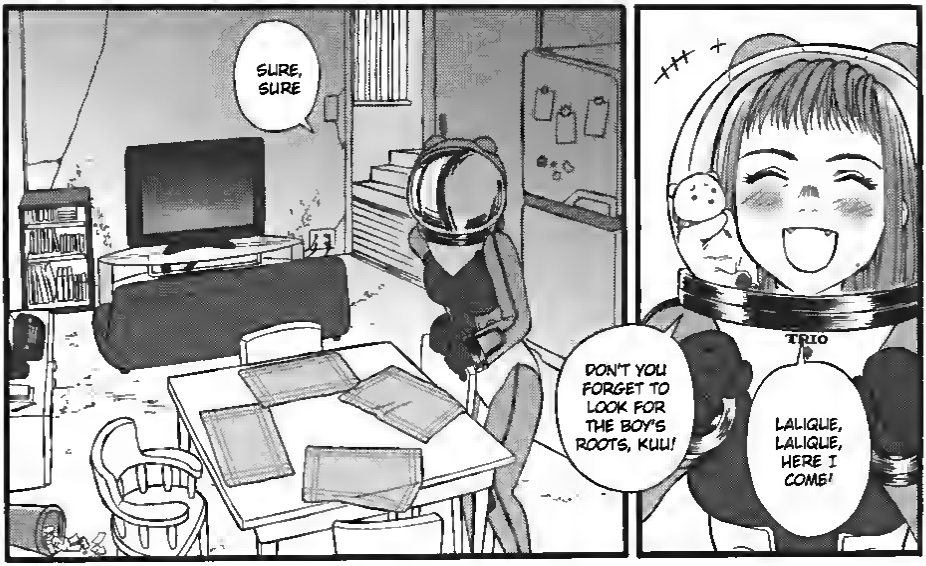

ACCORDING TO THAT GALLERY
THE CERTIFICATION WAS REQUESTED BY AN ART GALLERY IN GINZA
I SEE, THANK YOU VERY MUCH
YES, TOKYO METROPOLITAN!
GOTCHA
WE COULD BE BACK TO SQUARE ONE DEPENDING ON HOW THE DICE ROLLS
BUT IF IT WAS A RESELLER WE'RE LIKELY TO HIT A DEAD END
AS WELL AS A NUMBER OF OTHER ITEMS
THE SEAL WAS BOUGHT BY A MR. FUJISAKI LIVING IN MINATO-KU, SHIBA MITA, KOYAMA-MACHI 1-18
AND WE LEFT THE UMBRELLA THERE, KUU
GOTTA WALK BACK TO THE NEXT STATION
NOW THEN, LOOKS LIKE THE RAIN IS OVER
AW YEAH

AN OLD CAR NAVIGATOR FROM BEFORE THE ERUPTION
Another 300M, then make a left turn
THEY DON'T SELL TOKYO BASED ONES ANYMORE

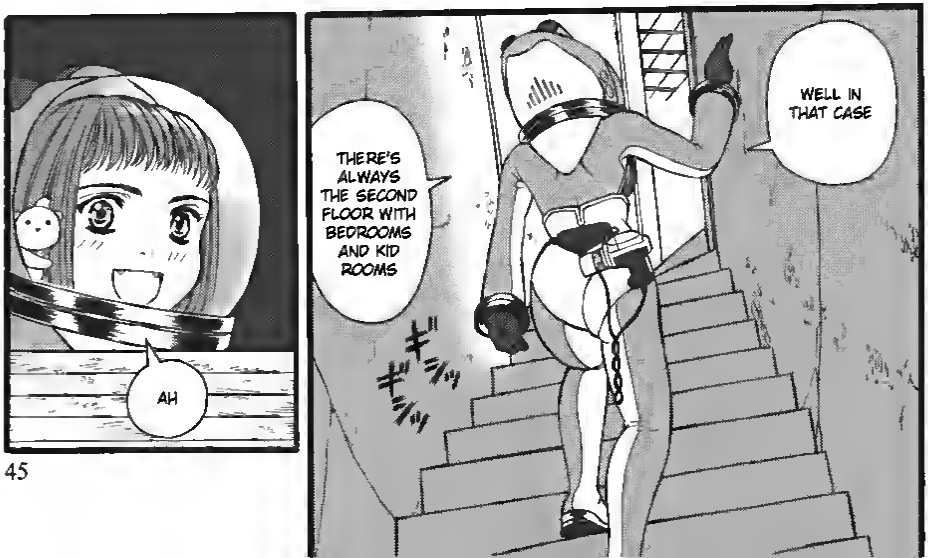
ギュ
LOOK AFTER THE SHIP, PLEASE
I'LL GO OUTSIDE, SO...
KYA-
WAH
I'LL GO, TOO!

I'M SORRY!
COULD YOU LOOK THE OTHER WAY, PLEASE?
THERE'S ONLY ONE DUSTPROOF ANTI-ACID SUIT ON THIS SHIP
IT'S LIKE WE TRAVELLED A LONG WAY BACK IN TIME
ONE OLD STREET THIS IS
TRIO
ALL OF THE RENOVATION ACTIVITIES WERE CANCELLED IN 2009 WHEN THE GLOBAL FINANCIAL CRISIS HAPPENED
SHIBA MITA KOYAMA-MACHI, ONE OF THE FEW PLACES TO SURVIVE THE AIR RAIDS OF THE PACIFIC WAR, KUU
I SEE
AND IN THE END ONLY THIS PLACE HAS REMAINED

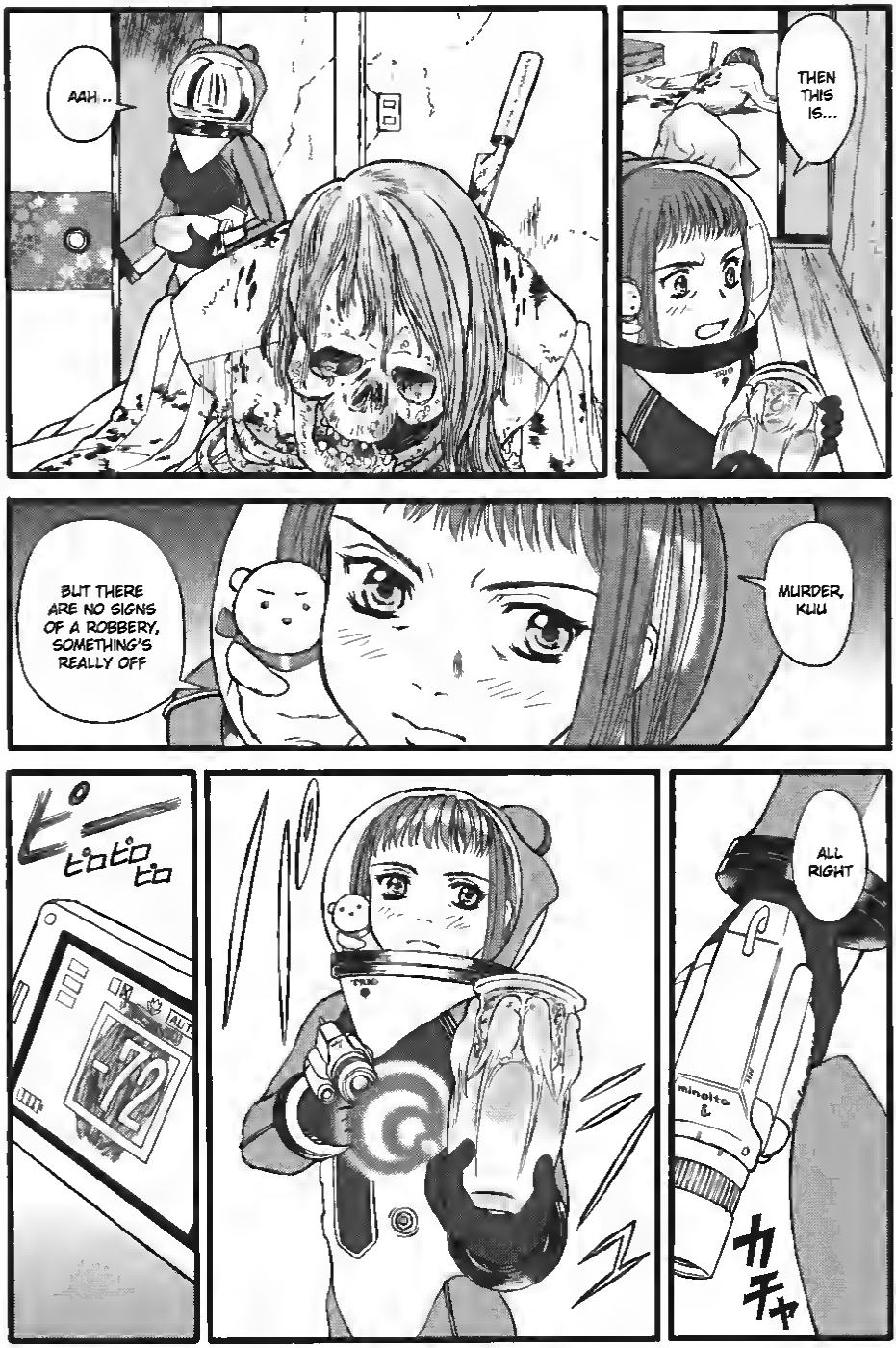
THESE ALLEYWAYS ARE QUITE CONFUSING
WOW
FUJI-SAKI
藤崎
THERE IT IS, FOUND IT!
KUU
AND NO IDEA WHERE'S THE HOUSE WE'RE LOOKING FOR
HUH?
SORRY FOR THE INTRUSION
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE THERE WERE ANY LOOTERS HERE
YEAH, AND YOU'LL BE THE FIRST ONE, KUU!
IT'S TO HELP SOMEONE OUT SO IT'S OUR JOB
カパッ


SURE, SURE
DON'T YOU FORGET TO LOOK FOR THE BOY'S ROOTS, KUU!
TRIO
LALIQUE, LALIQUE, HERE I COME!

BUT IT FEELS LIKE THEY ONLY TOOK SOME ESSENTIAL ITEMS DURING THE EVACUATION, KUU
HMM
BUT I DON'T SEE ANY FAMILY PHOTOS OR LALIQUE
BY THE LOOKS OF IT A FAMILY OF FOUR LIVED HERE, MAYBE WE HIT THE JACKPOT
AND ONE OF THEM WAS A CHILD, KUU


AH
THERE'S ALWAYS THE SECOND FLOOR WITH BEDROOMS AND KID ROOMS
WELL IN THAT CASE

AND IT'S INTACT
MOLDED BLUE PATINA GLASS, KUU
AND THERE'S A LALIQUE CEYLAN VASE
IS THAT BLOOD?
TRIO
...HAIR?
...AND SOME BLACK STUFF
KUU..


AAH..
THEN THIS IS...
BUT THERE ARE NO SIGNS OF A ROBBERY, SOMETHING'S REALLY OFF
MURDER, KUU
ピーピロピロピロ
-72
ALL RIGHT
minolta
カチャ

I HATE, I HATE...
HATE...
ドクリ
HATE
I WON'T FORGIVE HIM
ギッギッギ
ガタガタ
ギシギシ
I HATE MY FATHER
TRIO
1. FORGOT IN THE STORE
2. NOT SURE I CAN DO IT
ドオオオ
POLTERGEIST SUPPRESSION GUIDE
1. STICK A PAPER CHARM
2 NEUTRALIZE IT WITH LARGE AMOUNTS OF LOVE AND BLESSING
3. DESTROY THE SOURCE OBJECT
SO CHOOSE ONE, KUU
ピラッ
HATE
LENA, THE BEAMS ARE
WEAKENED AFTER THE EARTHQUAKES, SO THE HOUSE CAN COLLAPSE, KUU

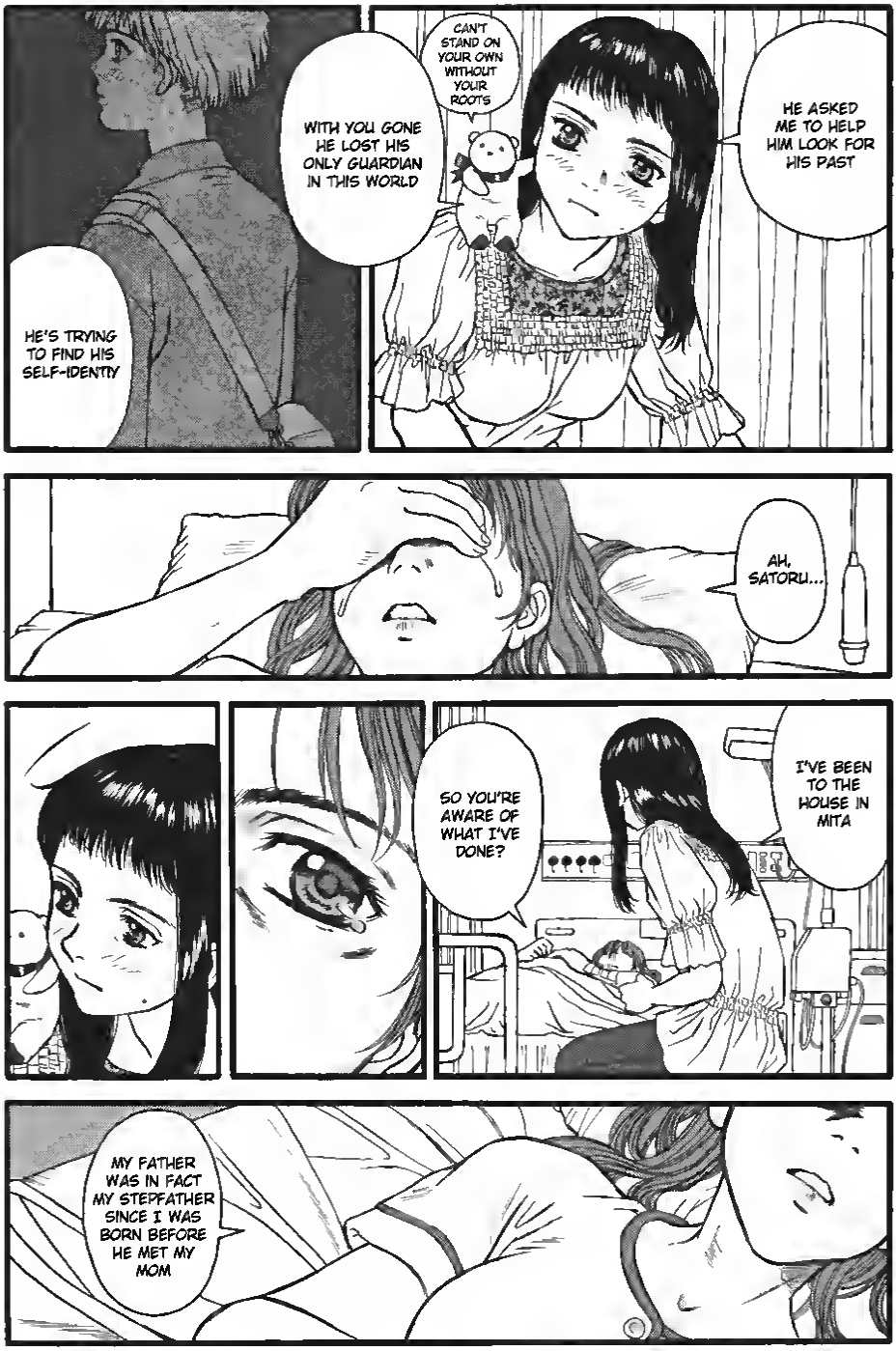
3!
AT THIS RATE THE BUILDING REALLY WON'T HOLD, KUU!
IT'S PROBABLY REFLECTED ALL OVER THE HOUSE, KUU
THE NEGATIVE VALUE CAUSED BY THE MURDER WAS TOO LARGE, KUU
メキ
ゴリ
ゴリ
WELL THAT DIDN'T HELP
IF ALL ELSE FAILS, RETREAT, KUU!
ギシ
WELL THEN, TIME FOR THE STRATAGEM #36

ドドドドド
バキバキバキ
IT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE. IT'S A BLUNDER ON MY PART
COULDN'T FIND A THING
IT'S NO USE

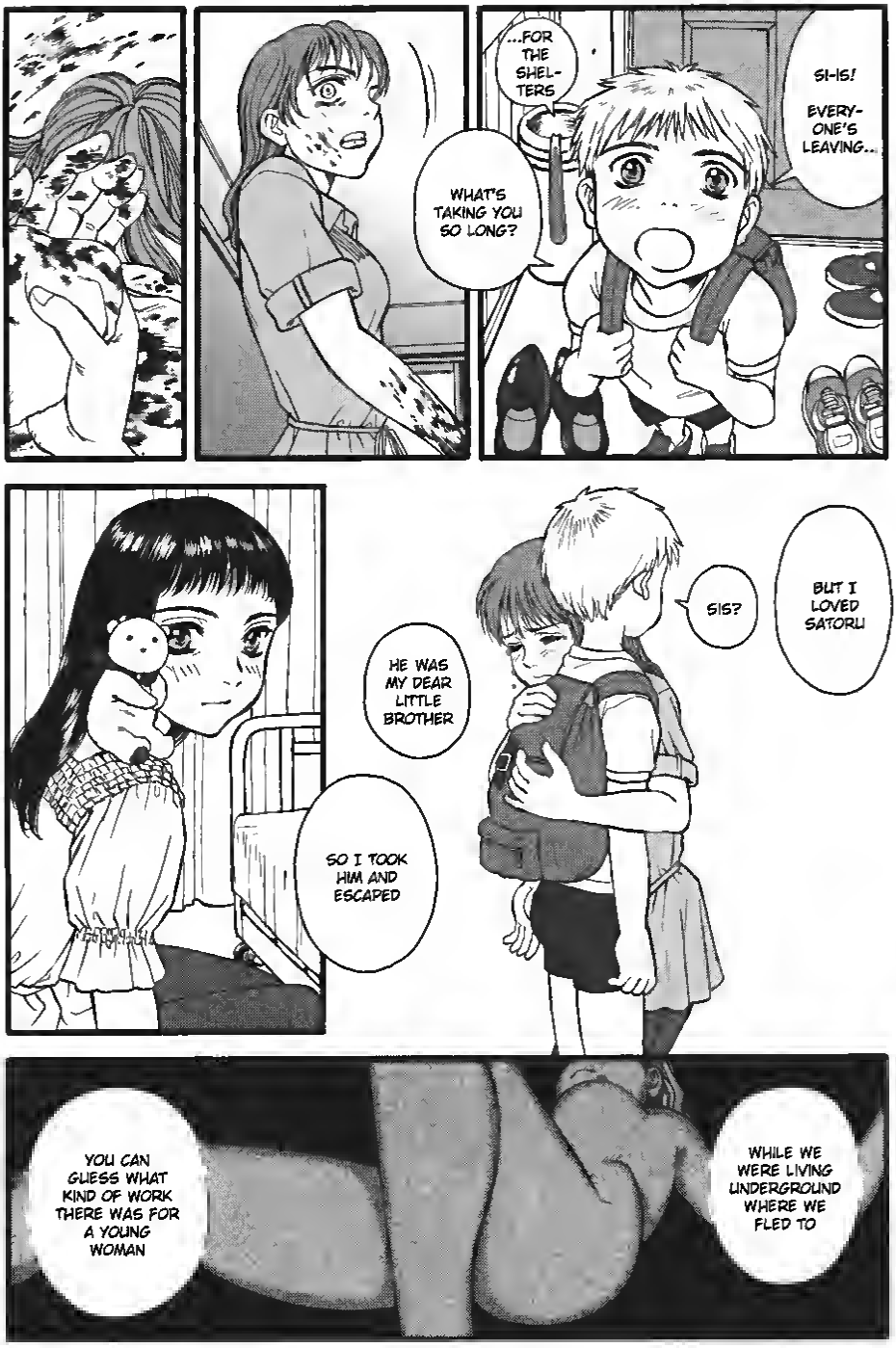
SORRY
I SEE...
SO WE ARE INDEED BACK TO SQUARE ONE
THANK YOU VERY MUCH
HERE, LIKE I PROMISED, TAKE THIS
THAT LOOK ON HIS FACE
MADE ME BLURT OUT THAT I'LL TRY AGAIN
WE DO HAVE THE ANSWER BUT IT'S NOT EASY TO COMMUNI-CATE IT
WELL I CAN'T JUST GO AND TELL HIM
HIS SISTER WAS LIKE A MOTHER TO HIM
SO WHY DID THAT...

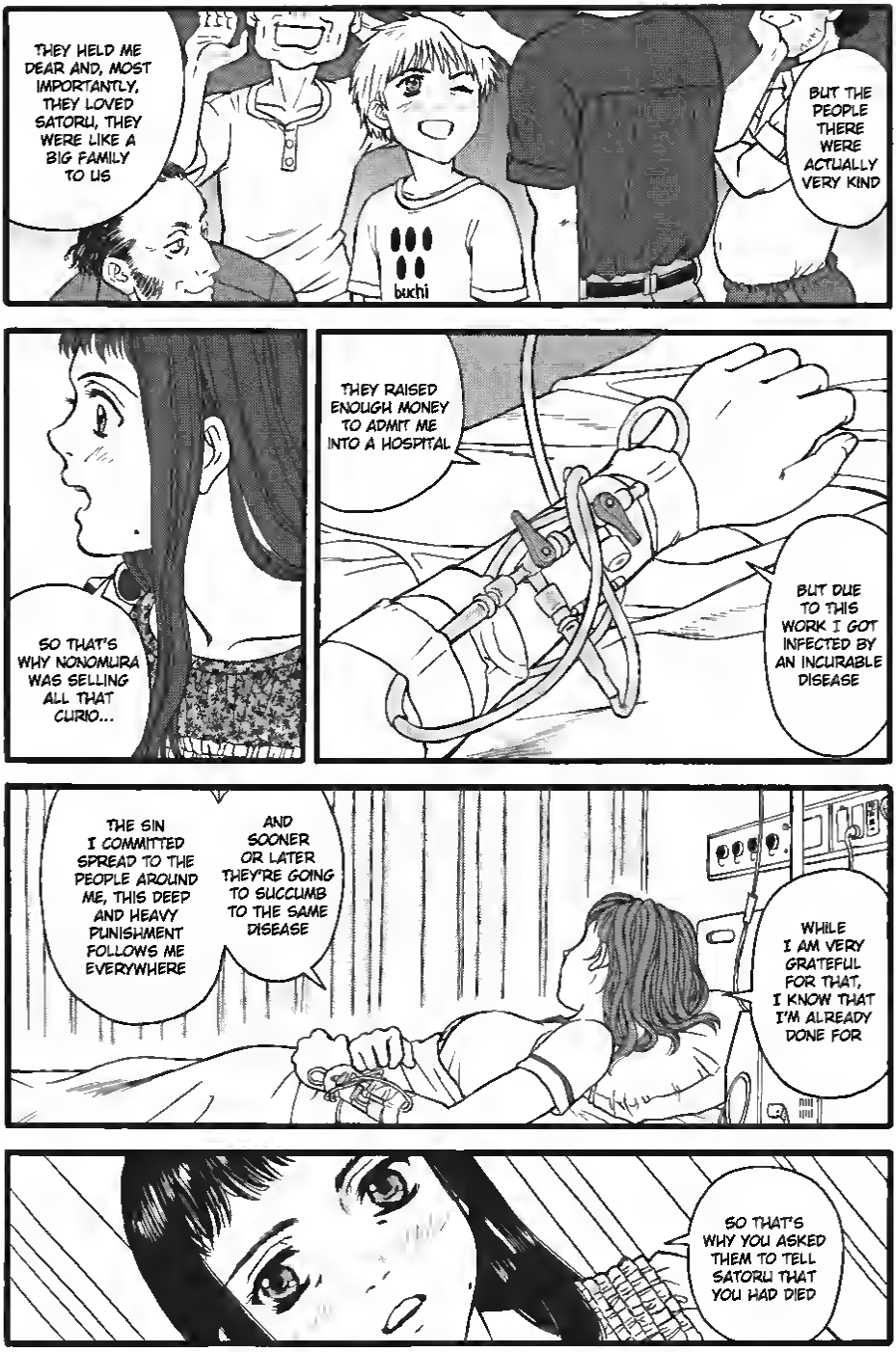
AH
IT'S YOU!
WELCOME
……
SATORU TOLD ME WHAT'S GOING ON
?
SHE'S HERE
YOU CAN FIND HIS SISTER HERE

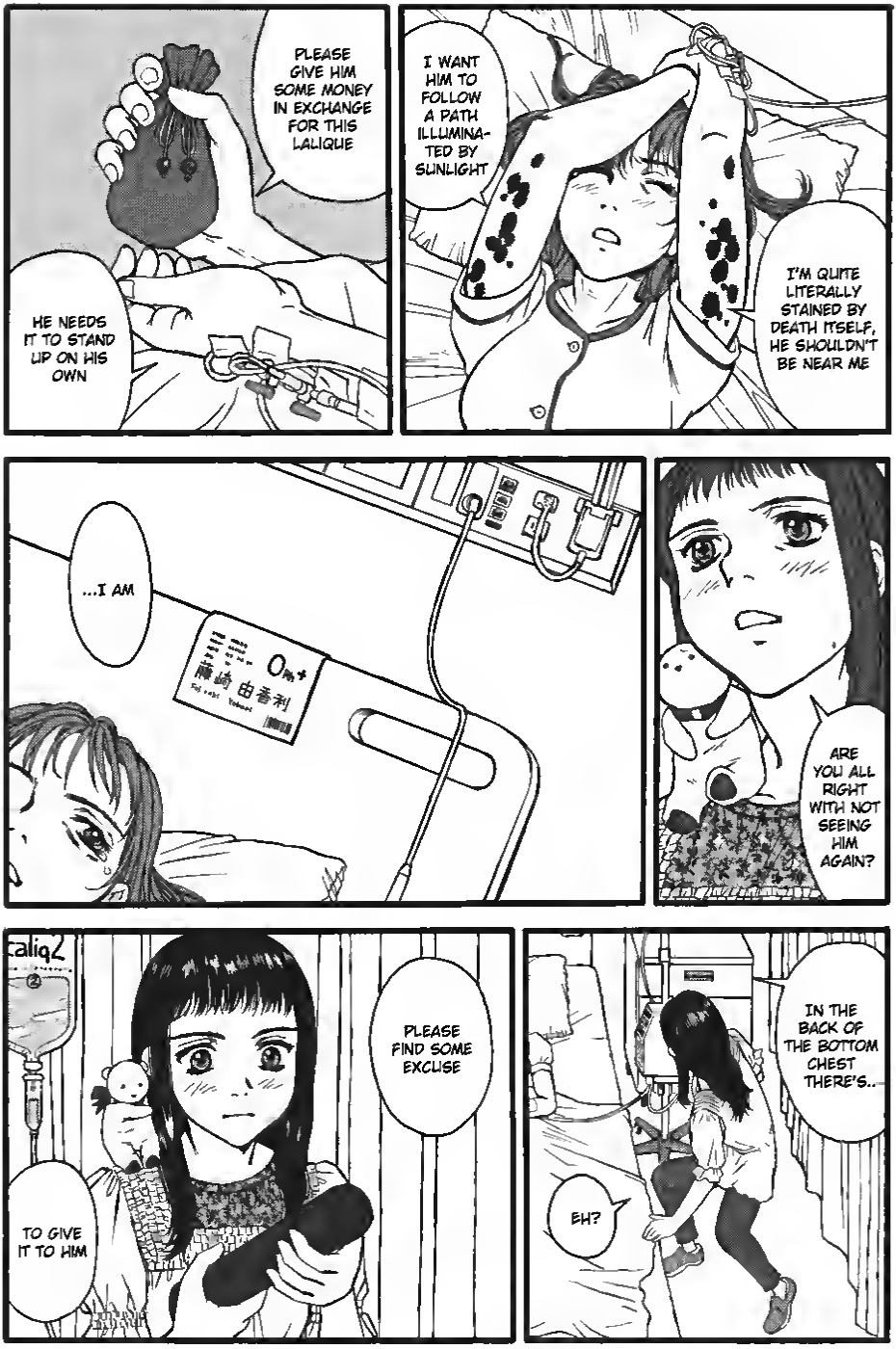
1304
CALL
AND WHO ARE YOU?
Fulcalo?
ガタン!!
IS SATORU HERE?!
NO, I'M ON MY OWN
HE DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS PLACE
MY NAME IS LENA SATOU
ANTIQUE DEALER, KUU
SO YOU'RE YUKARI
AH!

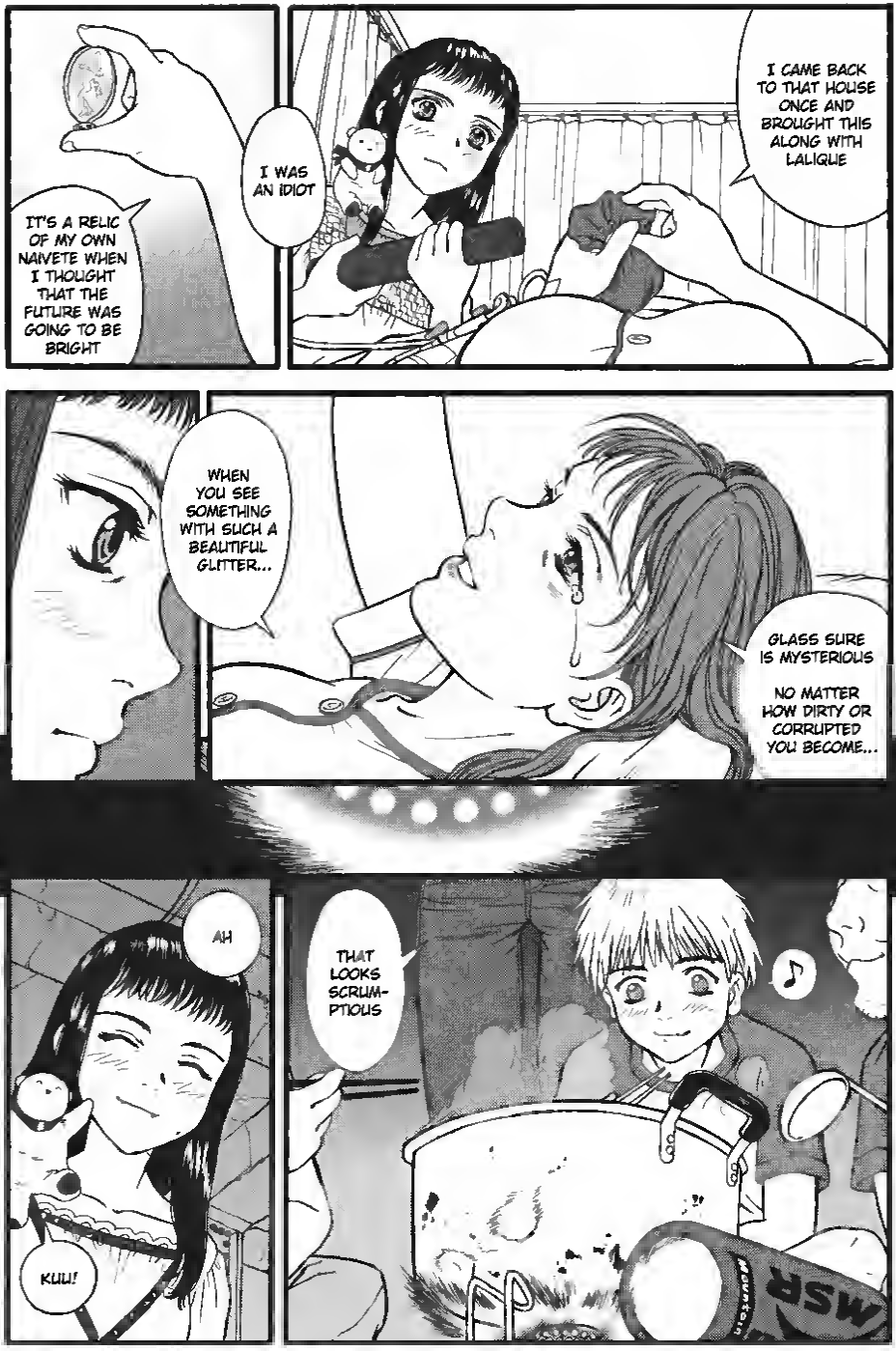

HE'S TRYING TO FIND HIS SELF-IDENTITY
WITH YOU GONE HE LOST HIS ONLY GUARDIAN IN THIS WORLD
CAN'T STAND ON YOUR OWN WITHOUT YOUR ROOTS
HE ASKED ME TO HELP HIM LOOK FOR HIS PAST
AH, SATORU...
SO YOU'RE AWARE OF WHAT I'VE DONE?
I'VE BEEN TO THE HOUSE IN MITA
MY FATHER WAS IN FACT MY STEPFATHER SINCE I WAS BORN BEFORE HE MET MY MOM

BUT SHE PRETENDED NOT TO SEE IT
BEFORE LONG MOM FOUND OUT ABOUT THAT
BUT WHEN I WAS 15, MY DAD...
SOON AFTER THEY MARRIED SATORU WAS BORN AND WE LIVED AS A HAPPY FAMILY
I HATED BOTH OF MY PARENTS
"IMPATIENCE IS WEAKNESS" IS WHAT SHE THOUGHT AFTER EXPERIENCING DIVORCE AND BEING LEFT WITH A KID
AT THAT MOMENT SOMETHING INSIDE ME LIT ON FIRE AS WELL
THAT'S WHEN FUJI ERUPTED

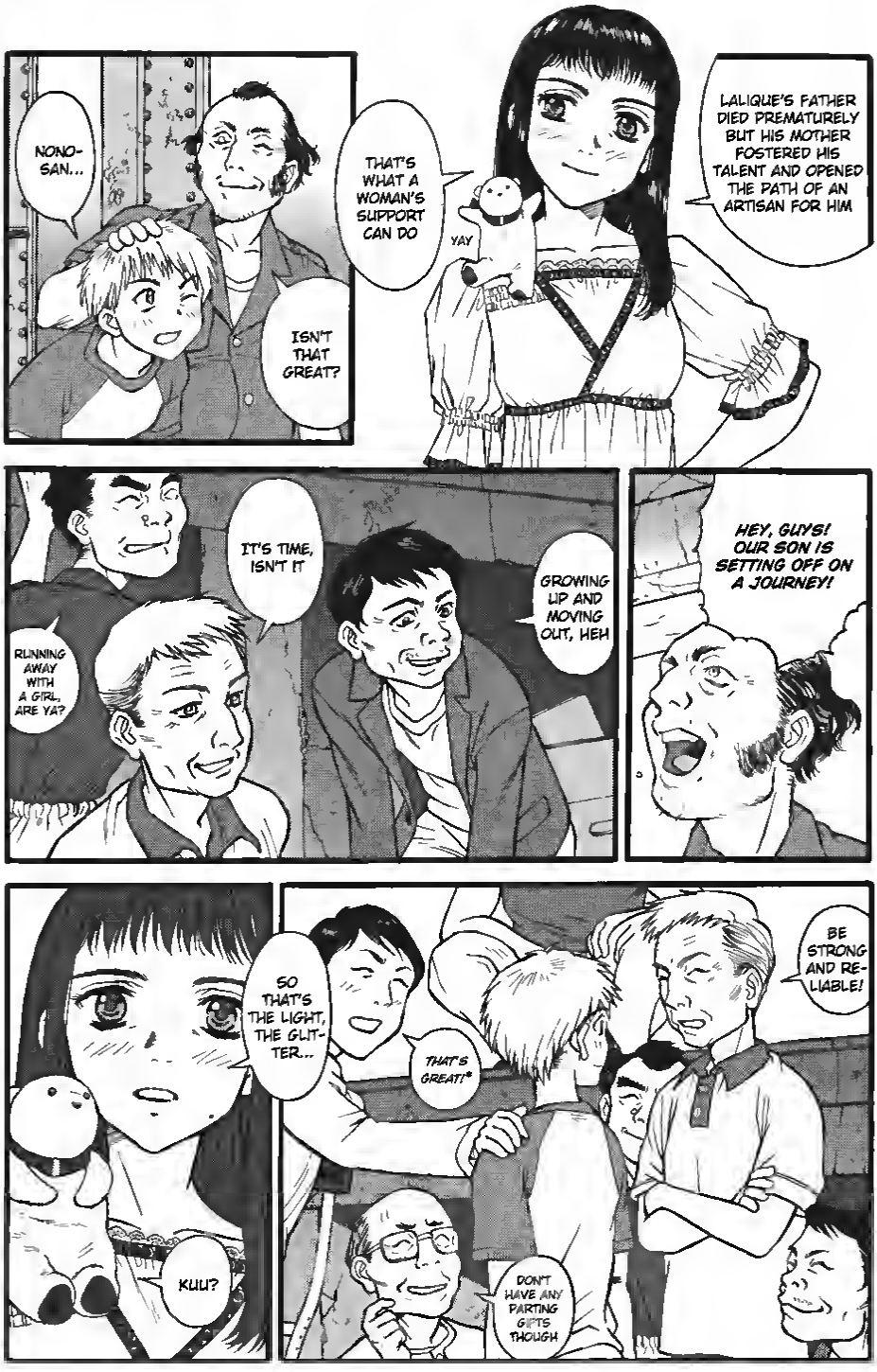

SI-IS!
EVERY-ONE'S LEAVING..
...FOR THE SHEL-TERS
WHAT'S TAKING YOU SO LONG?
BUT I LOVED SATORU
SIS?
HE WAS MY DEAR LITTLE BROTHER
SO I TOOK HIM AND ESCAPED
WHILE WE WERE LIVING UNDERGROUND WHERE WE FLED TO
YOU CAN GUESS WHAT KIND OF WORK THERE WAS FOR A YOUNG WOMAN


THEY HELD ME DEAR AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, THEY LOVED SATORU, THEY WERE LIKE A BIG FAMILY TO US
BUT THE PEOPLE THERE WERE ACTUALLY VERY KIND
buchi
SO THAT'S WHY NONOMURA WAS SELLING ALL THAT CURIO...
THEY RAISED ENOUGH MONEY TO ADMIT ME INTO A HOSPITAL
BUT DUE TO THIS WORK I GOT INFECTED BY AN INCURABLE DISEASE
THE SIN I COMMITTED SPREAD TO THE PEOPLE AROUND ME, THIS DEEP AND HEAVY PUNISHMENT FOLLOWS ME EVERYWHERE
AND SOONER OR LATER THEY'RE GOING TO SUCCUMB TO THE SAME DISEASE
WHILE I AM VERY GRATEFUL FOR THAT, I KNOW THAT I'M ALREADY DONE FOR
SO THAT'S WHY YOU ASKED THEM TO TELL SATORU THAT YOU HAD DIED


PLEASE GIVE HIM SOME MONEY IN EXCHANGE FOR THIS LALIQUE
HE NEEDS IT TO STAND UP ON HIS OWN
I WANT HIM TO FOLLOW A PATH ILLUMINATED BY SUNLIGHT
I'M QUITE LITERALLY STAINED BY DEATH ITSELF, HE SHOULDN'T BE NEAR ME
...I AM
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT WITH NOT SEEING HIM AGAIN?
PLEASE FIND SOME EXCUSE
TO GIVE IT TO HIM
IN THE BACK OF THE BOTTOM CHEST THERE'S..
EH?


IT'S A RELIC OF MY OWN NAIVETE WHEN I THOUGHT THAT THE FUTURE WAS GOING TO BE BRIGHT
I WAS AN IDIOT
I CAME BACK TO THAT HOUSE ONCE AND BROUGHT THIS ALONG WITH LALIQUE
WHEN YOU SEE SOMETHING WITH SUCH A BEAUTIFUL GLITTER...
GLASS SURE IS MYSTERIOUS
NO MATTER HOW DIRTY OR CORRUPTED YOU BECOME...
AH
KUU!
THAT LOOKS SCRUM-PTIOUS
MSR

LET'S JUST SAY ONE DEVIL KNOWS ANOTHER
REALLY?! HOW?!
IT'S A SMALL TRACE OF YOUR FAMILY
WELL, I MANAGED TO FIND THIS SOMEHOW
IT'S A FAMILY PICTURE DRAWN BY YOUR SISTER
LOOKS LIKE ONE HAPPY FAMILY
EH?
BUT THIS IS ..
AND ALSO THIS
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
THAT'S...
AND IF YOU FEEL LIKE IT YOU CAN MOVE IN FOR GOOD
HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT HELPING OUT AT MY STORE INSTEAD?
SO..
I PAID OFF THE GRANNY ALREADY
AND I CAN'T BRING MYSELF TO ACCEPT ONE OF THE FEW MEMENTOS YOU HAVE LEFT


NONO-SAN...
ISN'T THAT GREAT?
THAT'S WHAT A WOMAN'S SUPPORT CAN DO
YAY
LALIQUE'S FATHER DIED PREMATURELY BUT HIS MOTHER FOSTERED HIS TALENT AND OPENED THE PATH OF AN ARTISAN FOR HIM
RUNNING AWAY WITH A GIRL, ARE YA?
IT'S TIME, ISN'T IT
GROWING UP AND MOVING OUT, HEH
HEY, GUYS! OUR SON IS SETTING OFF ON A JOURNEY!
KUU?
SO THAT'S THE LIGHT, THE GLITTER...
THAT'S GREAT!*
DON'T HAVE ANY PARTING GIFTS THOUGH
BE STRONG AND RELIABLE!

* IN CHINESE

HIS HEART IS SO PURE AND HONEST
HIS SISTER AND THESE GUYS ENTRUSTED HIM WITH THEIR FEELINGS AND THE PROOF OF THEIR EXISTENCE
AS HE CAN REACH THE FUTURE THEY NEVER COULD
HE IS THEIR LIGHT
THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
STAY IN GOOD HEALTH!
DO YOUR BEST!
WELL
I'M OFF